

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USNATO 01108 041351Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
IO-13 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
/116 W

-----053153 050228Z /70
R 022139Z FEB 78 ZDK PER RUEHCS #0470M
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9116
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 01108

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG
SUBJECT: NIKE HERCULES: SHAPE STUDY

REF: (A) USNATO 770 (DTG 241618Z JAN 78), (B) STATE 22231
(DTG 270105Z JAN 78)(NOTAL)
SUMMARY: WE ARE PURSUING GUIDANCE IN REF B CONCERNING
PERMREP/STAFF GROUP CONSIDERATION OF THE SHAPE NIKE
HERCULES STUDY, AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT ALLIED RE-
ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE 6 FEBRUARY STAFF GROUP MEETING.-
MEANWHILE, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) DELAY IN CONSIDERA-
TION OF THE STUDY WILL HOLD UP PERMREP OR STAFF GROUP DIS-
CUSSIONS UNTIL THE WEEK OF 20 FEBRUARY AT THE EARLIEST.
WE WILL NEED TIMELY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO PRE-
SENT US VIEWS IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARA 4. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE QUERIED THE IS ON THEIR INTENDED APPROACH FOR
HANDLING THE SHAPE STUDY AND THEY HAD PLANNED TO FOLLOW
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PAGE 02 USNATO 01108 041351Z

THE USUAL PRACTICE OF CIRCULATING AN INITIAL DRAFT PERMREP
REPORT AS A VEHICLE FOR EXPEDITING COUNTRY VIEWS. THESE
VIEWS WOULD THEN BE EXCHANGED IN THE STAFF GROUP PREPARA-
TORY TO FORMAL PERMREP CDNSIDERATION OF A REVISED DRAFT
REPORT. AT THE 6 FEBRUARY STAFF GROUP MEETING, WE INTEND,
PURSUANT TO REF B, TO SUGGEST THAT PERMREPS MEET TO

REGISTER NATIONAL VIEWS PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF ANY DRAFT REPORT. WE ANTICIPATE THE ALLIES WILL WISH TO AIR THE SUBJECT AT STAFF LEVEL BEFORE MOVING THE ACTION TO PERMREPS, AND THUS THEY MAY ACCEPT THE FALL-BACK POSITION OF EXCHANGING COUNTRY VIEWS IN THE STAFF GROUP PRIOR TO PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT, AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 OF REF B.

2. WE NOTE THAT DELAY IN MC CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDY WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR PERMREPS TO "ACT PROMPTLY" AS CALLED FOR IN BARI MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE:

. - THE FRG HAS REQUESTED A DELAY IN MC DISCUSSION OF THE PAPER UNTIL 9 FEBRUARY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRG IS DOING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY AND MAY WELL POSE OBJECTIONS TO REDUCTIONS AS HIGH AS THE 30 PERCENT RECOMMENDED BY SHAPE. SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS MAY ALSO HAVE DISSENTING VIEWS, THUS EXTENDING MC CONSIDERATION BEYND 9 FEBRUARY.

. - EVEN IF MC ACTION IS COMPLETED ON 9 FEBRUARY, WHICH APPEARS DOUBTFUL, WE DO NOT EXPECT THE NPG TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE STUDY UNTIL THE WEEK OF 20 FEBRUARY AT THE EARLIEST, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THAT THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP MEETING WILL PRECLUDE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION DURING THE WEEK OF 13 FEBRUARY.

3. SINCE NPG CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDY HAS BEEN DELAYED
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PAGE 03 USNATO 01108 041351Z

AT LEAST TO THE WEEK OF 20 FEBRUARY, IT WOULD HELP AVOID FURTHER DELAY IF WE WERE FULLY PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO PRESENT OUR OWN VIEWS. TO PREPARE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE THAT WEEK, WE WOULD APPRECIATE TIMELY GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON'S POSITION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE PRIOR TO WEEK OF 20 FEBRUARY. BENNETT

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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